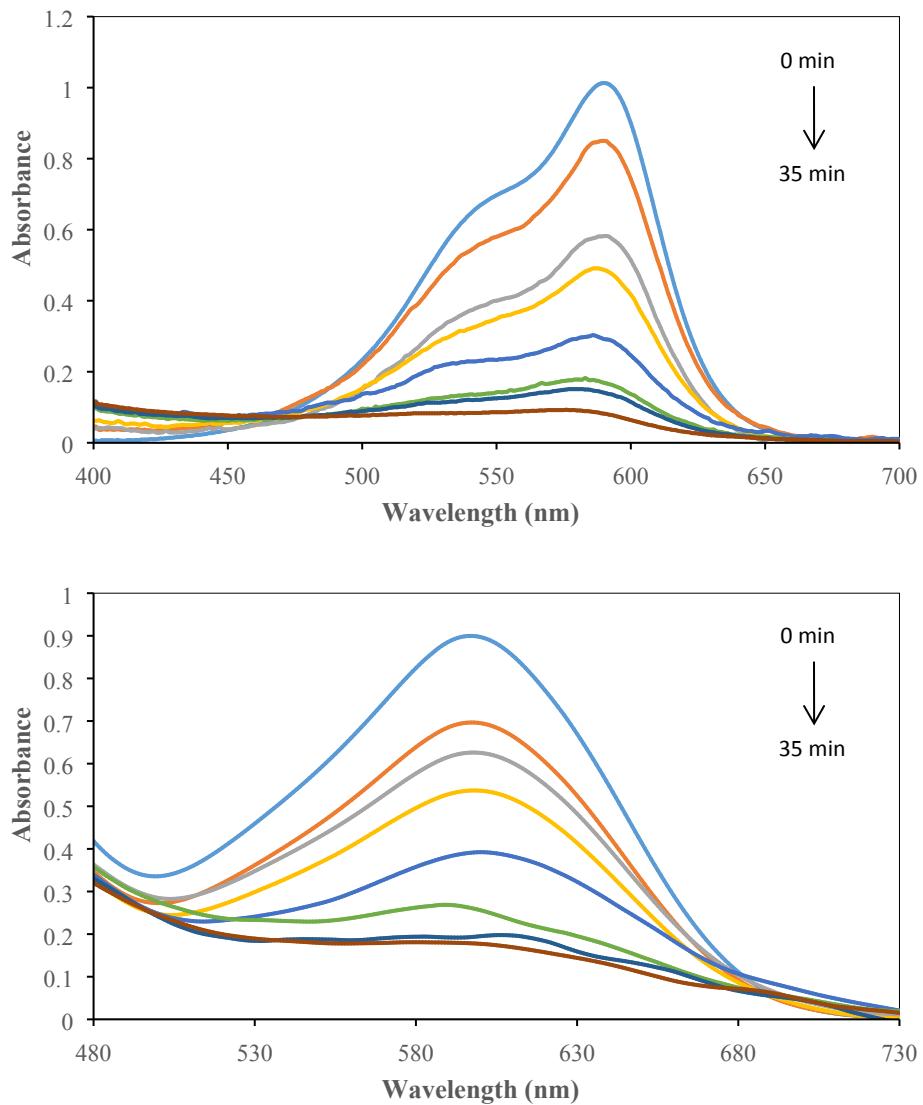


**Fig. S1.** PL spectra of the TA solution after reaction with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  for 2 and 5 min over  $\text{CuCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{N-GQDs}$ . (Reaction condition: similar to the degradation of MB, except that the MB aqueous solution was replaced by alkaline terephthalic acid ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L TA +  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L NaOH))



**Fig. S2.** Change in absorbance spectra of CV (a) and CR(b) at different time intervals in the presence of  $\text{CuCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{N-GQDs}$ . (Reaction conditions:  $C_{\text{CV}} = 5.0 \text{ mg/L}$ ,  $C_{\text{CR}} = 20.0 \text{ mg/L}$ ,  $C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2} = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$ , catalyst amount= 8 mg, pH =7.0).

**Table S1.** The experimental variables and levels of the Box-Behnken design

Variables	Symbols		Levels		
	Uncoded	Coded	Low	Middle	High
pH	X <sub>1</sub>	$x_1$	4.0	7.0	10.0
Catalyst mass (g)	X <sub>2</sub>	$x_2$	0.002	0.005	0.008
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Concentration (mol/L)	X <sub>3</sub>	$x_3$	0.02	0.06	0.10

**Table S2.** Design matrix in the Box-Behnken model, observed and predicted values

Runs	Actual level of factors			Coded level of factors			$k_{obs}$	
	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	x <sub>1</sub>	x <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>3</sub>	Observed	Predicted
1	7.0	0.005	0.06	0	0	0	0.035	0.036
2	4.0	0.002	0.06	-1	-1	0	0.005	0.001
3	4.0	0.005	0.1	-1	0	+1	0.012	0.012
4	4.0	0.008	0.06	-1	+1	0	0.018	0.020
5	7.0	0.008	0.02	0	+1	-1	0.034	0.031
6	7.0	0.008	0.1	0	+1	+1	0.099	0.096
7	7.0	0.002	0.1	0	-1	+1	0.020	0.023
8	7.0	0.005	0.06	0	0	0	0.033	0.036
9	10.0	0.002	0.06	+1	-1	0	0.026	0.024
10	10.0	0.008	0.06	+1	+1	0	0.093	0.096
11	10.0	0.005	0.1	+1	0	+1	0.099	0.097
12	7.0	0.005	0.06	0	0	0	0.041	0.036
13	7.0	0.002	0.02	0	-1	-1	0.010	0.012
14	4.0	0.005	0.02	-1	0	-1	0.008	0.009
15	10.0	0.005	0.02	+1	0	-1	0.023	0.023

**Table S3.** Analysis of variance (ANOVA) for Box-Benken design.

Source of variation	Df <sup>a</sup>	SS <sup>b</sup>	MS <sup>c</sup>	F value	P value <sup>d</sup>
Model	9	0.014947	0.001661	76.59	0.000
X <sub>1</sub>	1	0.004900	0.004900	226.00	0.000
X <sub>2</sub>	1	0.004186	0.004186	193.06	0.000
X <sub>3</sub>	1	0.003003	0.003003	138.50	0.000
X <sub>1</sub> <sup>2</sup>	1	0.000034	0.000034	1.58	0.265
X <sub>2</sub> <sup>2</sup>	1	0.000018	0.000018	0.83	0.404
X <sub>3</sub> <sup>2</sup>	1	0.000018	0.000018	0.83	0.404
X <sub>1</sub> × X <sub>2</sub>	1	0.000729	0.000729	33.62	0.002
X <sub>1</sub> × X <sub>3</sub>	1	0.001296	0.001296	59.77	0.001
X <sub>2</sub> × X <sub>3</sub>	1	0.000756	0.000756	34.88	0.002
Lack-of-Fit	3	0.000074	0.000025	1.42	0.439
Pure Error	2	0.000035	0.000017		
Total	26	0.015055			

<sup>a</sup> Degrees of freedom

<sup>b</sup> Sum of square

<sup>c</sup> Mean square

<sup>d</sup> p Values <0.05 were considered to be significant.